



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)


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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 207, February 2, 2024

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active, but with a 5-week maximum.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://www.SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

02 Feb 2024 1838 GMT  
 SFI:137 SN: 131  
 A-Index: 5  
 K-Index: 0  
 X-Ray: C1.3  
 304A: 151.0 @ SEM  
 Ptn Flx: 77  
 Elc Flx: 15500  
 Aurora: 1/n=1.99  
 Mag (Bz): 2.0  
 Solar Wind: 325.1  
 Geomag Field INACTIVE  
 Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1  
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.norbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3DA, KINGDOM OF ESOWATINI.** Hans, **3DAØAQ** has been QRV on 15 meters using digital modes between 1800 and 2000z. QSL via [EA5GL](#).  
 -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Eric, F6ICX is QRV as **5R8IC** until **March 31st**. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW with low power. The last two weeks here will be spent being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL direct to [F6ICX](#).  
 -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

**5X, UGANDA.** Paul, **5X4E** has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1500z. QSL direct to [IZ3ZLG](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 18, 2024] (0119-0223)

**5Z, KENYA.** Martin, **5Z4PA** has been active on 20 meters using CW around 0200z. QSL via [MØURX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 18, 2024] (0119-0223)

**6W, SENEGAL.** Willy, ON4AVT will be QRV as **6W7/ON4AVT** from Warang from **February 3rd to April 16th**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to [ON4AVT](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

**6W, SENEGAL.** Gerhard, OE3GEA plans to be QRV as **6W/OE3GEA** near Dakar from **January 27th to February 4th**. Activity will be on 30 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to [OE3GEA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0209)

**7O, YEMEN.** Vlad, OK2WX will be active from Socotra Island (AF-028) from **January 25th to February 12th** as **7O2WX** on HF, with a focus on the low bands. He plans to set up monoband verticals for 160, 80, and 40m. QRV also during the CQWW 160m CW Contest (January 26th to 28th). For more information see: <https://www.mdxsupport.com/7o2wx/> QSL via [IZ8CCW](#).

-[DXNL # 2390 January 24, 2024] (0126-0216)

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Keith, G3WRO will be QRV as **8Q7WR** from **January 24th to February 6th**. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly on 80 meters, using SSB. QSL to [G3WRO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 18, 2024] (0119-0223)

**9A, CROATIA.** Throughout 2024 Tom, 9A2AA will use **9A67AA** to mark his 67 years of activity on the amateur radio bands. QSL via [9A2AA](#).

-[425DXN # 1705 January 6, 2024] (0105-0209)

**9M2, WEST MALAYSIA.** Ross, **9M2AX** has been active on 160 meters using CW from around 1230 to 1430 UTC, and then from around 2000 to 2330 UTC. QSL direct to [9M2AX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0216)

**A2, BOTSWANA.** John, VK2NEN has lived in Botswana since 2011, and has no plans to leave the country in the near future. He has recently been licensed as **A2NEW**, and for the time being he is QRV typically between 1600 and 1900 UTC using a vertical whip mounted on his car. He hopes to install a quad antenna on his house and operate on 40-10m. QSL via [EA7FTR](#).

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0223)

**C6, BAHAMAS.** John, W6JTB, will be active as **C6ABJ** until April 2024.

-[DXNL # 2388 January 10, 2024] (0112-0216)

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** DK5HH, DL1TOG, and DO5JL will be active as **DPØGVN** from the German research station Neumayer III from **January 20th to early March**, mostly via QO-100. QSL via [DL5EBE](#).

-[DXNL # 2389 January 17, 2024] (0119-0223)

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** Felix, DL5XL will be active again as **DP1POL** from the German research station "Neumayer III" (AN-016) beginning **January 20th until early March**. In his spare time, he will operate mainly CW, with some digital modes and SSB. QSL via [DL1ZBO](#), LoTW, or [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0119-0223)

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** Andrii, UT3UTQ has been active as **EM1UTQ** from the Akademik Vernadskyi station on Galindez Island (AN-006), Antarctica **since January 9th**. Also stationed at Vernadskyi is Serhii, UW5EHR, who has been QRV as **EM1EHR** **since early December 2023**. Both are members of the XXVIII Ukrainian Antarctic Expedition, which is expected to remain at the base **until late March**.

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0112-0216)

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** Norbert, VK5MQ, will be active during the 2023/24 season from Casey Base as **VKØAI**. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct. N.E. TRUPP, PO BOX 1359, MOUNT GAMBIER, SA, 5290, Australia.

-[DXNL # 2388 January 10, 2024] (0112-0216)

**CN, MOROCCO.** Michel, F5LRL will be QRV as **CN2DX** near Kenitra from **January 20th to February 10th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB, with FT8 on 6 meters, from 0500 to 1000z, and then 1800 to 2200z. QSL via [EA5GL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 11, 2024] (0119-0209)

**DL, GERMANY.** Special callsign **DG22SIXTY** celebrates the DARC Ortsverband Gemund's (G22) 60th anniversary from **February 1st until December 31st**. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0126-0216)

**DU, PHILIPPINES.** BJ, WA7WJR will be active holiday style as **DU3/WA7WJR** from the Region of Pampanga in the Philippines on **February 4th-9th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. He also plans to be active from the Governor Macario Amedo Park and the Mount Arayat National Park during this trip. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, ClubLog and QRZ. QSL direct to [WA7WJR](#).

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0202-0209)

**DU, PHILIPPINES.** Bob, **DU7ET**, remains active **until mid-February**. QSL via [DU7ET](#).

-[DXNL # 2391 January 31, 2024] (0202-0216)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of February 2, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. PYØT	Trindade & Martim Vaz Islands
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. KP5	Desecheo Island
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF February 2, 2024] (0202-0216)

**EA, SPAIN.** In celebration of World Radio Day (February 13th) and the 100th anniversary of the start of regular radio broadcasting in Spain, special callsign **AO1ØØRADIO** will be active on **February 1st-29th**. This activity is taking place as part of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles, Spain's IARU member society. QSL via [EA4URE](#) (bureau preferred).

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0302)

**EA, SPAIN.** Members of URE Valladolid will be active as **EG1GOY** on **February 4th-11th** for the 38th edition of the Goya Awards, whose ceremony will take place on February 10th. Presented by the Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences of Spain, the Goya Awards are the Spanish equivalent of the Academy Awards. QSL via [EA1URV](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0202-0216)

**EK, ARMENIA.** Dima, RX3DPK, continues to operate as **EK/RX3DPK** until the end of 2024 on 160-10m (no 60m) on FT8. QSL via [RX3DPK](#).

-[DXNL # 2388 January 10, 2024] (0112-0216)

**EP, IRAN.** Mohammed, **EP5MMS** is often active on 20 meters using SSB around 1200 to 1300z. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0301)

**F, FRANCE.** Francois, F8DVD will be active as **TM21AAW** on February 4th-18th, to promote the 21st Antarctic Activity Week (February 18th-25th). He will be QRV from his home QTH in France. QSL via LoTW, or via [F8DVD](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0202-0223)

**F, FRANCE.** Members of Radio Club Jean Bart, F6KMB will be active as **TM6C** on February 4th-18th during the traditional Dunkirk Carnival (Carnaval de Dunkerque). QSL via [F6KMB](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0202-0223)

**F, FRANCE.** Special callsign **TM26PVJ** will be activated from January 26th to February 4th for the 26th "Percee du Vin Jaune", the festival celebrating the "Opening of the Yellow Wine" which this year will take place at Arbois (Jura). QSL via [F8GGZ](#).

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0126-0209)

**FM, MARTINIQUE.** Francis, F6BWJ will be active again as **FM/F6BWJ** from Martinique (NA-107) starting on January 11th for two months. He will operate CW on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, or via the bureau to [F6BWJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1705 January 6, 2024] (0105-0209)

**FR, REUNION I.** Thierry, FY4JI, will be active as **FR4AV** from February 4th to March 11th on 40-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [EA5GL](#).

-[DXNL # 2391 January 31, 2024] (0202-0308)

**HC, ECUADOR.** Rick, NE8Z is QRV as **HC1MD/2**. He is generally active from 0100 to 0300z and will soon be QRV on 160 meters using FT8. QSL via [K8LJG](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**I, ITALY.** Throughout 2024 ARI Fidenza will use a series of special callsigns each representing a "keyword" that summarizes and characterizes the content of a sentence from one of Guglielmo Marconi's many public speeches: **II4TENC** (January), **II4INTU** (February), **II4SUCC** (March), **II4DETR** (April), **II4SEAS** (May), **II4RDFE** (June), **II4INNV** (July), **II4BFRE** (August), **II4OTSR** (September), **II4VISN** (October), **II4BTFU** (November), **II4FCGD** (December). QSL via [IQ4FE](#). Information about the "Discovering Marconi" award: <http://www.arifidenza.it/>.

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0112-0216)

**J5, GUINEA-BISSAU.** Station **J52EC** is usually QRV on 10 meters SSB around 1500 to 1600z. QSL direct to [IZ3BUR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**J8, ST. VINCENT.** Franco, **J88BTI** is generally QRV on 160 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA.** Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as **JD1/JG8NQJ** from the weather station on Marcus Island (OC-073) from January 15th until mid-April. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to [JA8CJY](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 11, 2024] (0112-0216)

**JY, JORDAN.** Nart, **JY5IB** has been active on 30 meters using FT8 around 0300 to 0400z. QSL direct to [JY5IB](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 18, 2024] (0119-0223)

**LZ, BULGARIA.** Radio Club Blagovestnik (LZ1KCP) will use six special callsigns during 2024 to honor as many different Orthodox saints: **LZ235IR** (January and February), **LZ543BN** (March and April), **LZ44IZ** (May and June), **LZ302IT** (July and August), **LZ1515IW** (September and October), and **LZ311PA** (November and December). QSL via the bureau or direct to P.O. Box 36, 4300 Karlovo, Bulgaria. Details on the "All Saints 2024 Award" can be found at <https://www.lz1kcp.com/>.

-[425DXN # 1705 January 6, 2024] (0105-0209)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (<https://rrdxa.org/>), Jorg, OE6VIE is active as **OE6ØRRDXA** until June 30th. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0119-0223)

**PACIFIC TOUR.** Hrane, YT1AD and his team (Anatoliy RC9O, Olga UA9OLY and Stevan YU3AA) will be active from Fiji (3D2), Samoa (5W) and Tonga (A3) as follows:

**February 7th-10th, Fiji**

**3D2AD** (YT1AD)

**3D2AB** (YU3AA)

**3D2LY** (UA9OLY)

**3D2RC** (RC9O)

**February 10th-19th, Samoa**

**5W8A** (YT1AD)

**5WØAA** (YU3AA)

**5WØLY** (UA9OLY)

**5WØRC** (RC9O)

**February 20th-27th, Tonga**

**A35AD** (YT1AD)

**A35AA** (YU3AA)

**A35LY** (UA9OLY)

**A35RC** (RC9O)

**February 27th - March 1st, Fiji**

**3D2AD** ([YT1AD](#))

**3D2AB** ([YU3AA](#))

**3D2LY** ([UA9OLY](#))

**3D2RC** ([RC9O](#))

QSL via home calls.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0301)

**PJ5, SABA & ST. EUSTATIUS.** Janusz, SP9FIH is QRV as **PJ5/SP9FIH** until April 3rd. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW, [SP9FIH](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 11, 2024] (0112-0216)

**SM, SWEDEN.** Celebrating the Scandinavian CW Activity Group's 50th anniversary, special callsign **SC5ØAG** will be active during February. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1709 February 3, 2024] (0202-0301)

**TA, TURKEY.** Special callsign **TC6EQ** will be active on February 1st-29th to commemorate the earthquake that struck Turkey on February 6, 2023, causing widespread damage, and killing nearly 51,000 people. In particular, this activity will honor the memory of Mustafa Ezer (TA8DX), who lost his life in that catastrophic event. A certificate will be available on <https://tadx.org/awards>. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0126-0301)



**TZ, MALI.** Jeff, K1MMB, has returned to Bamako and works once more as **TZ4AM** on 80-10m (CW, SSB) and on 6m with a beacon (**TZ6HY/B**); when 6m opens, he will also show up there for QSOs. QSL via [KX4R](#).

-[DXNL # 2388 January 10, 2024] (0112-0216)

**V2, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA.** Chuck, KG9N will be QRV as **V26CV** from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, from **February 6th to 20th**. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW. QSL to [KG9N](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**VK, AUSTRALIA.** Andrey, VK5MAV will be QRV as **VK5MAV/4** from Magnetic Island (OC-171) from **February 6th to 11th**. QSL to [VK5MAV](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0216)

**VK9N, NORFOLK I.** Bob, GM4DLG is QRV as **VK9N/GM4DLG** until **February 7th**. Activity is on 80, 40, and 20 meters using SSB. QSL direct to [GM4DLG](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0209)

**VP2M, MONTSEERRAT.** Thaire, W2APF is QRV as **VP2MDX** until **April 11th**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FM, and FT8. QSL direct to [W2APF](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 11, 2024] (0112-0209)

**XU, CAMBODIA.** Yoshi, **XU7AKJ** is QRV from Phnom Penh and has been active on 10 meters using FT8 from 0200 to 0700z. QSL via [JA3ULS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0223)

**YJ, VANUATU.** Takio, JH3QFL, and Mamoru, JH3VAA, are going to sign **YJØAA** and **YJØMN** respectively from Vanuatu (OC-035) from **February 4th to 11th**. QRV on FT8 on the HF bands and via Green Cube Sat IO-117. See also <https://stationproject.blog/2023/07/04/greencube-io-117-overview/> QSL via [JH3QFL](#) or LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2391 January 31, 2024] (0202-0216)

**Z8, SOUTH SUDAN.** Ken, K4ZW will be QRV as **Z81Z** from Juba from **February 4th to 7th**. Activity will be in his spare time depending on his work schedule. QSL direct to [K4ZW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0209)

**ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS.** Martin, MWØBRO is QRV as **ZC4GW** during **2024**. QSL to [MWØBRO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 25, 2024] (0126-0301)

**ZD7, ST. HELENA.** Elvira, IV3FSG will be active as **ZD7Z** from St. Helena (AF-022) from **January 16th to February 4th**. She will operate SSB, CW, RTTY, FT8 and FT4 (using MSHV) on 160-6 meters. Plans are to enable ClubLog's Live Stream feature. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), paper cards direct to [IK2DUW](#).

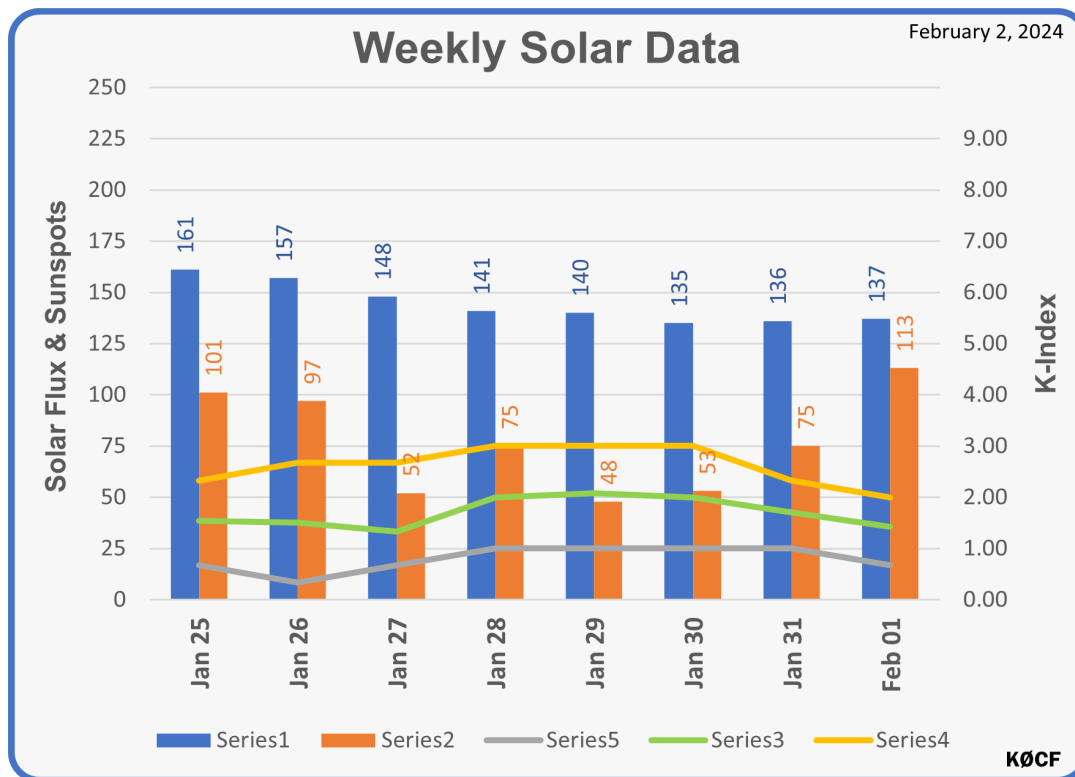
-[425DXN # 1700 December 2, 2023] (0112-0209)

**ZL7, CHATHAM IS.** Station **ZL7DX** has been active on 6 meters using FT8 around 2100z. QSL via [MØOXO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 11, 2024] (0112-0209)

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## Propagation (Updated daily)



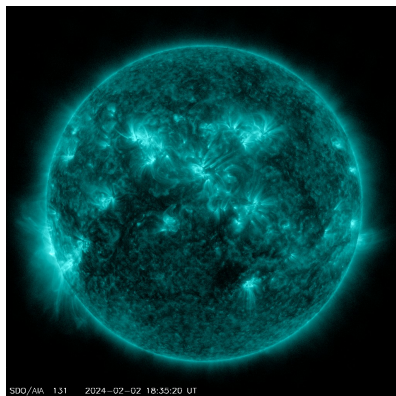
The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (K-Idx) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.



Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!

## Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, January 25th through yesterday, February 1st.

The average solar flux was down 31 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of

161 on Thursday, January 25th, followed by a low of 135 on January 30th.

The average sunspot count was down by 56 for the week, peaking at 113 on Thursday, February 1st after a weekly low of 48 on January 29th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.6 with a maximum of 3.0 on Tuesday, January 30th, resulting in generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since January 25th has been quiet with only 3 major flares, the largest of which was an M 6.8 event on Monday, January 29th.

## Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Thursday, January 25th through 1418 UTC, February 2nd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 02	0301	M 1.1
2	Jan 29	0438	M 6.8
3	Jan 29	0140	M 1.2

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Feb 2	25%	5%	135
Feb 3	25%	1%	140
Feb 4	25%	1%	140

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on January 29, 2024).

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 2	145	2
Feb 3	150	2
Feb 4	150	2
Feb 5	155	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 6	155	3
Feb 7	160	2
Feb 8	165	2
Feb 9	165	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 10	165	2
Feb 11	165	2
Feb 12	170	2
Feb 13	165	2

## Highs for Cycle 25

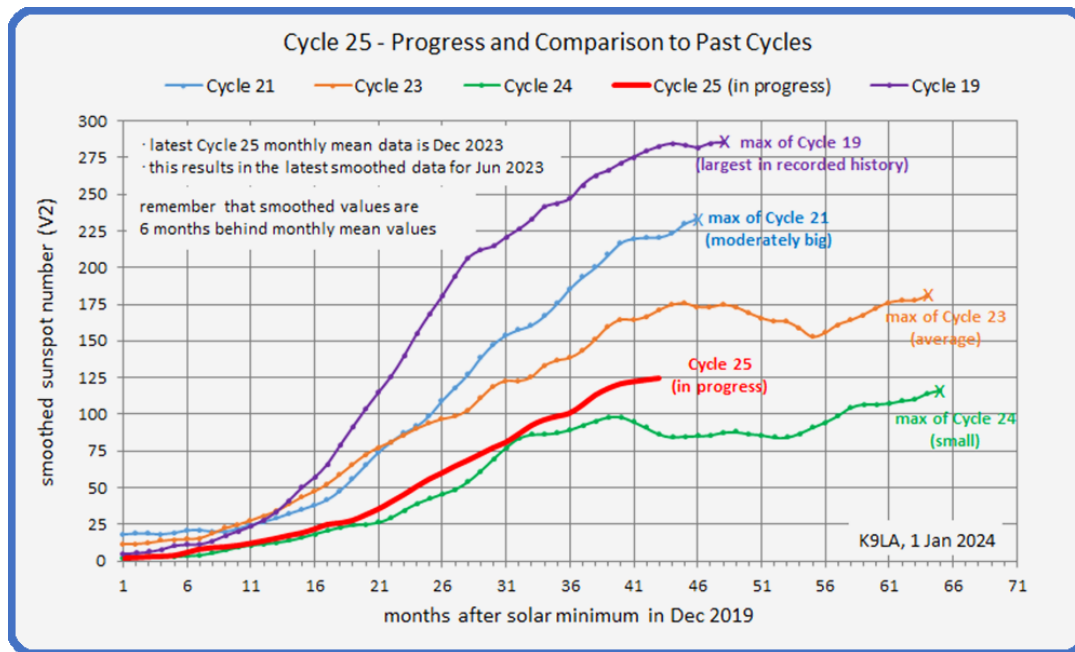
Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.

Sunspots: 227 on July 11, 2023.\

## Cycle 25 vs. Past Cycles

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA (an acknowledged propagation expert) has created this graph showing Cycle 25 progress as compared to a few past Solar Cycles. It is very interesting to see that Cycle 25 is a very modest iteration, providing some good but not great propagation on the HF bands.





## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.net/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters.

However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

# Contest Calendar

## Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000Z is Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central time zone.

## Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 3	0000Z	Feb 4	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 3	0001Z	Feb 4	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 3	1200Z	Feb 4	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 3	1400Z	Feb 3	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 3	1600Z	Feb 4	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 4	0000Z	Feb 4	0359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 10	0000Z	Feb 11	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 12	1300Z	Feb 16	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW</b>	Feb 17	0000Z	Feb 18	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 23	2200Z	Feb 25	2159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 24	1800Z	Feb 25	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 25	1500Z	Feb 26	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 2	0000Z	Mar 3	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 2	1800Z	Mar 3	1359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 9	1400Z	Mar 10	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 9	1500Z	Mar 10	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 9	1900Z	Mar 10	1900Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 10	0000Z	Mar 10	0359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 10	1800Z	Mar 11	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 16	0200Z	Mar 18	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Russian DX Contest	Mar 16	1200Z	Mar 17	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 24	0000Z	Mar 24	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 30	0000Z	Mar 31	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 6	1400Z	Apr 7	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX Contest	Apr 6	1500Z	Apr 7	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 13	0700Z	Apr 14	1300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 13	1400Z	Apr 14	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 14	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 19	2100Z	Apr 20	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YU DX Contest	Apr 20	0700Z	Apr 21	0659Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQMM DX Contest	Apr 20	0900Z	Apr 21	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 20	1600Z	Apr 21	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 20	1800Z	Apr 21	1800Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 21	1800Z	Apr 21	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	Apr 27	0001Z	Apr 28	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX RTTY Contest	Apr 27	1200Z	Apr 28	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Helvetia Contest	Apr 27	1300Z	Apr 28	1259Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Florida QSO Party	Apr 27	1600Z	Apr 28	2159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	May 4	0001Z	May 5	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 4	1300Z	May 5	0700Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Indiana QSO Party	May 4	1600Z	May 5	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Delaware QSO Party	May 4	1700Z	May 5	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New England QSO Party	May 4	2000Z	May 5	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]